



Update for period 15th –21st July 2006

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Tuesday 25th July, 10.30am-1.00pm**, EBI €100 Competition Awards Ceremony, Teagasc Moorepark.
- ✚ **Tuesday 1st August**, 10.30-1.00pm, **Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting**, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. **Please note change of date – previously 20th July.**
- ✚ **Tuesday 1st August**, 14:00 – 17:00, **Linear Scoring, Weight Recording in targeted herds and Beef Breeding Scheme update.**
- ✚ **September 27th to 30th. Ploughing.** The new breeding information service will be the main focus of the ICBF stand.

2 Tully & Beef Linear Scoring Review Meeting, Thursday 20th July

Thursday's meeting was attended by some 30 representatives of beef herd books and AI companies. The key points from the meeting included:

- ✚ **Implications of breeding scheme review.** The review has identified the beef breeding herds that must be the focus of our recording efforts in the near future. These are the breeders of elite cattle (elite cows, elite calves and stock bulls) in each breed and the herds that are progeny testing beef bulls. Characteristics of these herds include:

- Contemporary groups of at least five animals – ie five or more weanlings born in the same season and given the same environment.
- Use AI to sire replacements.
- Have sires of cows recorded.
- Participate fully in animal events.
- Participate fully in beef linear scoring and weight recording of weanling age animals.

A plan for involving up to 2,000 such herds with up to 20,000 weanlings in the autumn of 2006 is under development and will be reported in more detail on the 1st of August.

- ✚ **Results from three years of linear scoring and weight recording.** An analysis of the last three years of linear scoring and weight recording has shown:

- There are a large percentage of animals being linear scored outside the age range for valid comparisons.
- 27% of animals are being weight recorded.
- 40% of animals are in contemporary groups of five or less.
- Standard deviations are low for some of the leg traits.
- 13% of animals in herds are not being linear scored.

- ✚ **Linear Scoring Reference & Training Session.** The linear scorers met earlier in the week to undertake referencing and training. The scorers also provided valuable feedback on aspects of the service that require attention. Herd books were provided with a list of traits that appear to be no longer required and asked to respond with any objections they would have to these traits being removed from the service.

- ✚ **Tully Report.** Key points included:

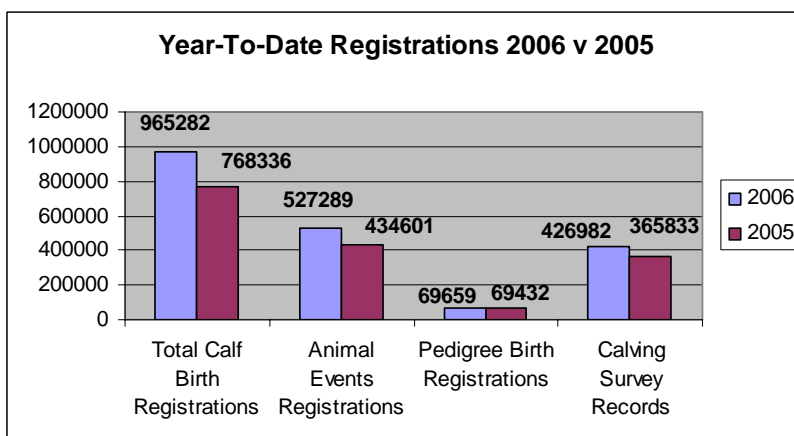
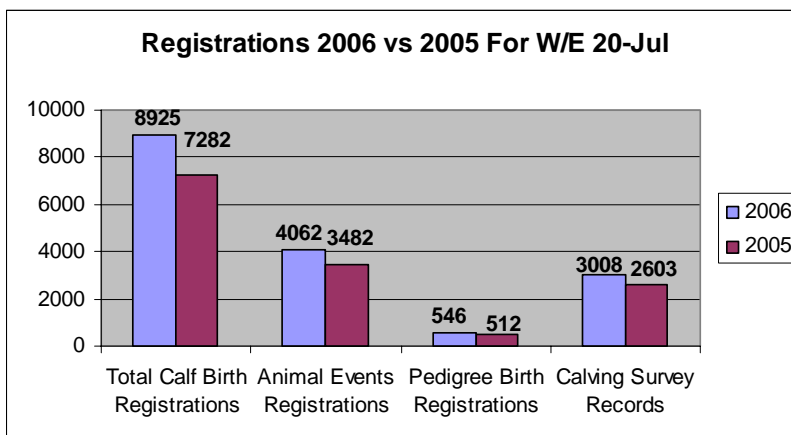
- For the June intake there has been an increase in the number of bulls failing entry to Tully on disease testing grounds. Discussion with DAF are taking place.
- The September intake will be selected on basis of BPSI. Lists of candidate bulls are with Breed Assns to help ensure the best bulls enter.



- November 2006 sale scheduled for 18th.
- FBD Trust are providing sponsorship for all sales in 2007.
- Issues associated with suspect over age bulls are being dealt with.
- In future the breed sequence in the Tully sales will be Angus and Hereford 1st and 2nd in rotation followed by all other breeds in rotation as from the March '06 sale.
- Position of auctioneer will be reviewed with a clarified job description, fixed term contract and put to tender.
- Movements to and from Tully has been facilitated by changing from form 31B to form 31A – Tully is treated as the bull owner rather than as a B&B.
- Ultra sound scanning of all bulls has recommenced in collaboration with UCD.
- Foreign bulls will be facilitated providing they are part of the breeding program for the benefit of Irish farmers.

3 Database Update

- ✚ 31 new herds added to the database last week.
- ✚ The 130,000 inseminations mark has now been broken by those technicians using handhelds.
- ✚ Dairygold have gone live this week with technicians in the Mitchelstown and Mallow areas. Plans are underway to get the last of the Dovea technicians live (in the Laois area) in early August.
- ✚ The template on which functionality for herd-books and AI will be migrated to the internet has been completed this week.
- ✚ The extraction process for the current dairy genetic evaluation run was completed last weekend.
- ✚ Work to update the ICBF.com website continued this week. It is intended that an updated look to the site will be applied at the end of July.
- ✚ Web development work continues with a focus this week on designing the authorisations around the new breeding information service.
- ✚ The redesign of a number of the current reports (EBI, Calving, Expected Calving) is underway and these changes will be incorporated into the reports before they are released again.





4 Milk Recording Update

Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 21/07/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 21/07/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 21/07/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 21/07/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,071	2,080	0%	143,425	150104	5%
Dairygold	1,518	1,545	2%	94,402	100823	7%*
Kerry	1,064	1,073	1%	65,777	68539	4%
SWS	934	956	2%	53,293	57456	8%
Tipperary	141	168	19%	9,170	11585	26%*
Arrabawn	107	157	47%	6,895	10674	55%*
Connacht	110	133	21%	7,116	8462	19%
Donegal	32	56	75%	3,227	4,910	52%*
Total	5,977	6,168	3%	383,305	412,553	8%

* For these Co-ops increase in cow numbers attributed to EDIY cells

Milk Recording Stats week ending 07/07/06

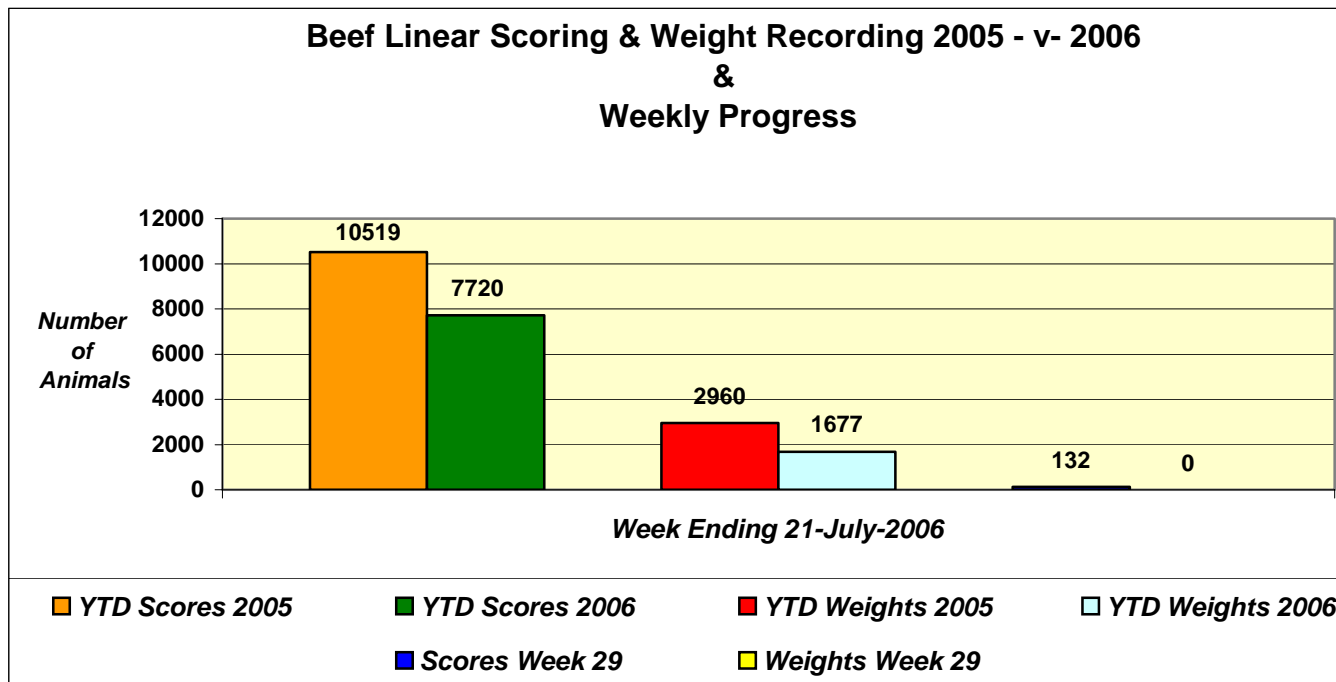
Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 14/07/06 - 21/07/06
Progressive	290
Dairygold	221
Kerry	188
SWS	159
Connacht	27
Tipperary	19
Arrabawn	12
Donegal	10
Total	926

5 Tully

- ✚ A total of 950 application forms for the next intake (September 2006) will be sent out on Tuesday 25th July 2006.
- ✚ This will be the first intake to enter Tully on the new EBI system and will be the top 25% on BPSI for Charolais, Angus, Limousin, Simmental and Hereford and the top 50% for all other breeds.
- ✚ A group of farmers from Germany will visit Tully on Wednesday 26th July.



6 Beef Linear Scoring



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